

**INPUT TO RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW-SOUTH END**

June 15, 2010

Subject: MacLeod - Our Great Magnet School

It is our honour and our responsibility to offer the following comments and input to the Accommodation Review Committee. Due to another major commitment, we are unable to attend the meeting on June 15, but wish to express our views.

Background and why we chose MacLeod Public School:

In the summer of 1997, because of an employment transfer, we relocated to Sudbury with our two young sons, ages 6 and 8. Like most parents, the education of our children was paramount to us. After getting a general overview of the city, we focused on the network of schools, seeking out a safe, quality education institution and one that was truly outstanding. One that went beyond the physical classrooms and structure.

One afternoon in late June we visited MacLeod Public School. As we entered the parking lot we came upon a fine gentleman who we found out to be the principal, Laurie Rowlandson. A discussion, a tour, and using all of our human senses, one of the best decisions we ever made resulted. Our children were going to attend this school. Show us the boundaries. Purchase a residence within the boundary. Have our children reap the benefits of that sound decision based upon a school's reputation, culture and environment, and caring staff who go above and beyond in a team environment.

In reflection, with our youngest son graduating this month from Lockerby Composite School, we submit this testimonial in the hope that the MacLeod Public School continues to grow and thrive as a place where children go, not just for education, but for character development and whole child wellness.

Our Experience at MacLeod:

Our experience with our boys in this community school environment was extremely positive. With the school family culture from the bottom-up and the top-down, our children benefited tremendously at MacLeod. Quality Educators wanted to go to this school to teach; families wanted their children to attend not just for academics, but for growth during the most important years of their life.

Overall impression:

From classroom opportunities, extracurricular activities, community relationships and parent engagement, the school is as perfect as they get! From School Council to 'Fun Fairs' to the caring educators who build educational relationships at MacLeod, there is a lot of synergy at this school. This reputation and impression is why the school enrollment has grown significantly in the last decade, when many other schools have declined. There is an obvious need to refit, rebuild develop this school for tomorrow. This has been a magnet school in Sudbury and should continue to grow as a magnet school.

People will continue to choose the school for the same reasons we did, providing it maintains and grows to meet the demands.

Additional comments:

Although a medium-large school, it can certainly not be considered too big for both the academic and social growth of students. Students requiring special education programs and services can benefit significantly by attending this size of school, where school board resources can legitimately be located to meet student needs. There is an economy of scale in providing quality education to meet the needs of all students. In the inclusive school/classroom environment, this school is a mirror reflecting the community. In reality, all students attending MacLeod receive high quality education along with positive social skills and character development which allow for a smooth transition to secondary schools. Parents should consider the statement 'begin with the end in mind'. We wanted our children to be very well prepared for adult life. MacLeod Public School played a huge role in putting foundation blocks in place to support our children for high school, post secondary education and as positive, contributing members of this community.

Thank you for the opportunity of providing this input.

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